

C O N F I D E N T I A L28th October, 1959.COCOM Document No. 3751COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSION

4400862

ONA UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSAL TO EXPORTAIR SEA RESCUE EQUIPMENT TO POLAND22nd October, 1959

Present: Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM 3704.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the United Kingdom proposal to export electronic equipment for air-sea rescue work to Poland. He invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities on this export and also on the general question raised by the United Kingdom as to the attitude that Member Countries would adopt with regard to the export of similar equipment to other countries in the Sino-Soviet Bloc.
2. The GERMAN Delegate stated that his authorities did not object to this export. He added that they favoured a special treatment for life-saving equipment. Until this general problem raised by the United Kingdom was settled, they thought that the Committee should give sympathetic consideration to similar proposals for other countries in the Soviet Bloc. The Committee should try to find an appropriate way during the List Review to deal with cases of this nature, for instance by administrative exceptions or by the addition of a Note excluding life-saving equipment.
3. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that his authorities sympathised with the purpose involved in this export, but the frequency of 243 megacycles mentioned in the United Kingdom memorandum did not at present appear to be the internationally assigned distress frequency. On the understanding, however, that the United Kingdom Delegation were able to confirm that this frequency was the signal used for rescue operations in the Baltic area, and that the equipment in question operated only on that frequency, the United States would raise no objection. The Delegate recalled that he had already given his personal opinion that the general problem raised by the United Kingdom should be solved on a case by case basis following the Committee's normal procedures. He now confirmed that this was the official view of his authorities.
4. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate undertook to find out whether in fact 243 Mc/s was the distress frequency used in the Baltic area. He interpreted the German statement as implying that the Committee should give sympathetic consideration to similar requests for other Bloc countries. The United Kingdom authorities would certainly submit such cases to the Committee in the normal way; they merely wished to have some idea of the attitude which other Member Countries might adopt towards them.
5. There were no objections from the other Members of the Committee and the UNITED KINGDOM Delegate expressed his thanks for the favourable replies that had been given.

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